



Media Contact:
Patrick Harrison
Paradise Advertising & Marketing, Inc.
(727) 821-5155 ext 110
Patrick@ParadiseAdv.com

SEMINOLE COUNTY FUN FACTS

- Seminole is an Indian word that means “run-a-way.” The Seminole Indians were a tribe composed of the Creek Nation in Georgia, the Cherokees, and black slaves. As they were being pushed off of their land or running away from slavery, the tribe relocated to Florida.
- There are three major lakes and three forts that played an important part of the history of the county. Lake Monroe, Ft. Mellon; Lake Jesup, Ft. Reid; and Lake Harney, Ft. Lane.
- Early cattle were known as “Scrub Cows” and were left by the Spanish to survive on Florida’s scrub lands. Cows were allowed to roam free until 1948, when the Legislature of Florida realized that the influx of people in cars moving to Florida resulted in cows being killed and people were injured. The days of an open range ended for public safety.
- Every city had a “Poor House” built on the outskirts of town. Seminole County’s, built in 1926, was affectionately called “The Old Folks Home,” which now houses the Museum of Seminole County History.
- Big Tree is over 3,500 years old and is now named “The Senator,” after Senator Moses Overstreet who donated the land in 1927. “The Senator” has a sister tree, “Lady Liberty,” who is 2,000 years old.
- The first African-American who graduated from the University of Florida Law School came from Midway, a community in the eastern part of Sanford.
- The first sheriff in Seminole County was Charlie Hand, who served three different terms and traveled by horse and motorcycle.
- Over the years, Sanford has had many nicknames including Gate Way City, Celery City and Lucky Sanford.
- From the late 1800s to 1950s, the circus traveled to Sanford by rail. It is estimated that over 1,000 elephants have graced the streets and grounds of downtown Sanford over the years.

Located in the heart of Central Florida, and within a 15-minute drive from its tourist-magnet neighbor, Orlando, Seminole County offers immediate access to theme parks, exciting entertainment and thrilling nightlife. Surrounded by the beauty of natural Florida, Seminole County also offers the classic Florida experience of peaceful rivers, fishing, boating, hiking and more. And it’s all within an easy drive of Florida’s fabulous Treasure Coast beaches and Kennedy Space Center.

For destination information call 1-800-800-7832 (USA and Canada) or 407-665-2900 (outside the USA) or visit www.VisitSeminole.com.

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